(b) Expansion/renewal of fleet by Air India is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sector/routes etc.

Cancellation of Air India Flights to Jeddah-Delhi-Jeddah

3989. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had cancelled its flights at Jeddah-Delhi-Jeddah section;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Air India will consider linking Delhi with Jeddah as there is considerable traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) Air India had suspended its services on Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi sector from 1.8.96 to 14.4.97 due to operational reasons. However, with effect from 15.4.97, Air India has started operating a flight on Mumbai-Delhi-Jeddah-Delhi-Mumbai sector with B-747 aircraft. Delhi is also linked to Jeddah over Mumbai on Air India flights twice a week.

क्रेडिट कार्डों के आधार पर एयर इंडिया द्वारा टिकटों की बिक्री

3990. श्री प्रभीश प्रधान: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या एयर इंडिया अपनी टिकट बिक्री खिड़कियों पर क्रेडिट कार्ड के आधार पर टिकटों की बिक्री करती है; और

(ख) क्या क्रेडिट कार्डों का इनेडान लेने वाली मशीन को अच्छी हालत में रखने के लिए कोई प्रबंध किया गया है; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी॰ एम॰ इब्राहिम): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) अनुरक्षण एजेंसी की सहायता से मशीनों को अच्छी हालत में रखा जाता है।

Irregularity and deficiencies in Indian Airlines Services

3991. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of complaints have been recieved from the passengers of the Indian Airlines regarding irregularity of schedules, delays and deficiencies in other services during the last two financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof flight sector-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure that similar nature of complaints are not received in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The number of complaints received from passengers of Indian Airlines during the last two financial years are as under:—

	1995-96	*1996-97*
Delays	224	127
Other services	2456	1840

(c) and (d) The working of Indian Airlines is regularly monitored with a view to improving its performance and service to its passengers. Indian Airlines has taken various steps in following areas to improve its services:—

(i) Product Improvement.
(ii) Commercial Initiatives.
(iii) Passenger facilitation.

DGCA Circular for Minimum Flight Crew Requirements

3992. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether circular No. 5-16/93-R&D "A", Part-I dated the 29th March, 1994, issued by DGCA for minimum flight

crew requirement for all regular flights is being followed by SAIL/Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the SAIL/Bokaro aircraft had flown the Minister of Steel with a single pilot inspite of availability of qualified pilot in SAIL aviation; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against SAIL for violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Circular No. 5-16/93-R&D Section 'A' Part I dated 29.3.94 was issued by DGCA on the subject of minimum flight crew requirements. However, these requirements have now to be read along with fresh instructions issued by DGCA vide Circular No. 5-16/93-R&D dated 18.10.95 wherein it has only been recommended to have a crew of two pilots for VIP flights.

(c) and (d) In the past, the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) had operated VIP flights with a single pilot. However, in view of the fresh instructions no such case has been reported.

Declaring Srinagar Airport as an International Airport to boost tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

3993. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments will consider the old demand of the people and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir State to declare the Srinagar Airport as an International Airport to boost the tourism and the tourist activities in the State where the tourist industry has almost collapsed; and

(b) if so, how much time it would take?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport belongs to Defence authorities. Clearance/approval of that Ministry has been sought for developing facilities to international standards so that international operations could be started from Srinagar Airport. No time limit can be indicated at this stage for upgrading the facilities at Srinagar to international stardards.

Land Provided on Lease at Lesser Rates by AAI's Officers

3994. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newsitem published in the Indian Express of 6th February, 1997 to the effect that five senior officers of Airports Authority of India offered the precious land of Juhu, Bombay, to an industrialist on lease at lower rate than the market rate, is correct;

(b) if so, the details of the measurement and the market rate of this land; and

(c) what has been the role of these officers in this episode and what action has been taken by Government to investigate the matter and to take action against these senior officers; if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The case is under examination of the Government.

Separate Corridors for inbound and outbound Air Traffic

3995. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) after the collision of the Saudi Air and Kazakhistan aircarft whether the DGCA had established separate corridors for inbound and outbound traffic; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?